

FISCAL NOTE

SB 3866 - HB 3939

March 5, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Supreme Court to establish a Judicial Performance and Evaluation Program for incumbent trial court judges seeking election or re-election to a full eight-year term.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

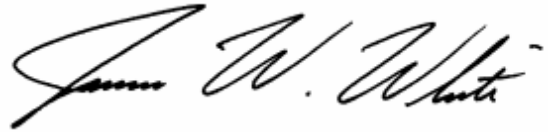
Increase State Expenditures - \$302,300

Assumptions:

- This legislation requires the establishment of an evaluation program for state trial judges similar to the evaluation program currently in place for the appellate judges. Appellate judges are evaluated twice during a judicial term. In the most recent evaluation of the full panel of appellate judges at the end of the judicial term, conducted during FY05-06, 26 out of 29 judges were evaluated at a cost of \$148,899.
- There are 169 trial court judges that would be subject to evaluation under this legislation, approximately six and one-half times the number of appellate judges being evaluated. Because of the large number of judges to be evaluated, it would be necessary to divide the judges into four groups. One group would be evaluated each year, requiring a four-year process to complete the evaluation of all trial judges. During an eight-year judicial term, each trial judge would be evaluated twice. A recurring cost of \$241,961 to conduct the trial judge evaluation process each year.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts would require one additional position to administer and coordinate the trial judge evaluation program. Recurring expenditures of \$60,300 includes the salary and benefits for the additional position.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a more stylized, connected manner to the middle initial "W." and the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc